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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) The system of claim 26, wherein the drive includes means for providing a block of ECC-encoded data; means for providing an encryption mask; means for performing a bitwise XOR of the encryption mask and the block of ECC-encoded data, an output of the bitwise XOR means being coupled to the computer bus.

Claims 2-9 (Cancelled)

10. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the drive further includes means for performing error code correction, and wherein the host processor also performs error code correction on the encrypted data sent by the drive.

Claims 11-25 (Cancelled)

26. (Previously presented) A system comprising:
a computer bus;
a host processor programmed to perform error code correction; and
a drive for providing an encryption mask, the drive performing a bitwise XOR of an encryption mask and a block of ECC-encoded data, a product of the bitwise XOR being an encrypted block; the drive providing the encrypted block to the computer bus, whereby an encrypted block can be sent to the host processor via the computer bus for error code correction.

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27. (Currently amended) A drive comprising:

a reader; and

a controller ~~for performing~~ programmed to perform a bitwise XOR of an encryption mask and a block of ECC-encoded data, a product of the bitwise XOR being an encrypted block, ~~the controller further being programmed to output the encrypted block.~~

28. (Previously presented) A data controller comprising a processor for performing a bitwise XOR of an encryption mask and a block of ECC-encoded data, a product of the bitwise XOR being an encrypted block.